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NOVEMBER 5.

The President, Dr. JOSEPH LEIDY, in the chair.

Forty persons present.

The deaths of Mary Jeanes and Henry Winsor, members, were announced.

Note on Pinus Banksiana.—Mr. J. H. REDFIELD spoke of the occurrence of a forest of *Pinus Banksiana* upon Schoodic Peninsula on the coast of Maine in latitude $44^{\circ} 20'$. This pine is well-known as skirting the northern borders of our territory from Northern Maine to Minnesota, but it is only recently that its occurrence so far south has been noted. He then gave an account of visits made to the locality by Mr. Edward L. Rand, of Boston, in 1882, and by himself in 1889.

This pine grows in great abundance over a large part of the peninsula, seeming to almost entirely replace the ordinary coniferous growth of that region. Mr. Redfield had also found a very extensive growth of *Corema Conradii* in the open rocky glades in the forest of *Pinus Banksiana*.

Mimicry of the environment in Pterophryne histrio.—Mr. J. E. IVES stated that his attention had been drawn to the remarkable resemblance of the color-markings of the Frog-fish to the Sargassum weed in which it lives. This fish is a member of the Pediculati, and shares the sluggish habits common to the group. On account of the elongation of the carpal bones, and other peculiar modifications, they have poor powers of swimming, their structure being adapted to moving about on the bottom, among corals, seaweed, and other low forms of life, which they closely resemble in color and in many points of outline. By this resemblance they are concealed both from their enemies and their prey. The member of the group best known, is the common Fishing-frog, *Lophius piscatorius* whose remarkable mimicry of its surroundings has been well described by Mr. S. Kent. In the genus *Antennarius*, closely related to *Pterophryne*, the species present wonderful similarity of color to the forms among which they live. Dr. Günther has paid considerable attention to this genus, and he has also given an excellent figure of *Pterophryne histrio*, under the name of *Antennarius marmoratus*.¹

Pterophryne histrio is found among the floating masses of Sargassum weed in the warm seas. Here it makes its peculiar nest by binding together the fronds of the seaweed with gelatinous threads, and depositing the eggs throughout the mass. The ground color of the fish is of a pale yellow, and on this light background are darker

¹ Journal des Museum Godeffroy, Heft. XI, pp. 161-165, Pls. 99-106.

irregular brownish bands, closely resembling the branched fronds of the Sargassum weed. Along the edges of these darker bands, on the bands themselves, and also to a lesser extent upon the rest of the body, are little white specks of various sizes, on an average about that of a pin's head. On the belly, around the mouth, and on the dorsal spines, are numerous leaf-like cutaneous filaments. Mr. Ives stated that after careful consideration, he had come to the conclusion that the color markings of the fish, and the cutaneous filaments, had been developed in mimicry of the *Spirorbis*-covered Sargassum weed. Professor Benjamin Sharp who spent last winter in the West Indies, had informed Mr. Ives that on the Sargassum weed, of which he saw large quantities, were invariably scattered great numbers of *Spirorbis* shells. Professor Moseley in "Notes by a Naturalist on the 'Challenger'" (p. 567) speaks of the resemblance in coloration of the forms inhabiting the Sargasso Sea, to the Sargassum weed. He attributes the white spots of *Pterophryne histrio*, and also of some shrimps and crabs to mimicry of the patches of *Membranipora* that encrust the Sargassum weed. The white spots upon *Pterophryne histrio*, however, are much smaller than the patches of *Membranipora*, and are also much more striking to the eye. This latter fact appears to be due to the delicate fenestrated character of this Bryozoan. The patches of *Membranipora*, also do not occur in the same abundance upon the Sargassum weed as do the *Spirorbis* shells. Professor Moseley probably confounded the numerous *Spirorbis* shells with patches of *Membranipora*. As far back as 1757, Peter Osbeck describing this fish which he had met with in the Sargassum weed of the Atlantic Ocean while on a journey to the East Indies, said, with reference to the cutaneous filaments, "probably Providence has clothed it in this leaf-like manner, in order that the predaceous fishes might confound it with the sea-weed, and therefore not exterminate it."¹

NOVEMBER 12.

Mr. CHARLES P. PEROT in the chair.

Twenty-eight persons present.

Notes on Crepidula.—Mr. JOHN FORD exhibited fine suites of *Crepidula*, including *C. conveza*, Say, *C. plana*, Say, *C. fornicata*, Linn. and *C. glauca*, Say, with the view of proving that *C. glauca*, said by some writers to be the young of *C. fornicata*, is not only distinct from that species but from all others of the genus.

Special reference to the matter had been suggested by the omission of the name in Dr. Dall's recently published "Catalogue of the Shell-bearing Marine Mollusks of the South Eastern Coast of the

¹ Peter Osbeck, Reise nach Ostindien und China. Aus dem schwedischen übersetzt von J. G. Georgi Rostock, 1765, p. 400.